

Alternative C

Vision

Alternative C would create a comprehensive and nationally recognized Educational Institute to promote understanding about the World War II American Home Front. The Educational Institute could be the definitive source of America’s World War II Home Front history. It would offer exhibits, extensive oral histories, and a research program equivalent to that of a major educational and historical institution. A variety of exploration, learning, and scholarly opportunities would be available to visitors of a wide range of age groups and interests. The Educational Institute also could offer access to an extensive collection of original World War II Home Front artifacts and documents.

Key Distinguishing Points

Visitor Experience

The National Historical Park would be the definitive place in the nation to learn about World War II Home Front stories. Visitors could enjoy interactive exhibits, explore the archives and library collection, and enroll in seminars and formal classes. There also would be opportunities to listen to oral histories, meet with historians and experts, participate in the “distance learning” curriculum and Internet-linked conferences, and investigate an extensive digital web museum. For research purposes, visitors also would have first-hand access to a repository for original World War II Home Front artifacts.

Education and Visitor Services

The educational institute would consist of the National Park Service Education Center, the Richmond Museum of History, and research facilities and archival storage supported in partnership with other cultural and educational institutions. Most visitor services would be in the Ford Assembly Plant building, with other park sites supporting these programs.

In addition to interpreting the World War II Home Front, the Child Development Centers and the Fire Station would be used for hosting group and independent studies of “best practices” related to the historic use of these sites (for example, child care and education at the Child Development Centers).

Historic Preservation

The exterior facades of the historic structures would be maintained so that World War II Home Front stories could be interpreted. Parts of the interior space could be preserved to a World War II-era appearance; these also could be used for archival and research activities as well as for other activities that would support the educational

institute. Interior spaces not used for park purposes could be used for compatible contemporary uses.

SS Red Oak Victory

The SS *Red Oak Victory* could be moored at Sheridan Observation Point.

Child Development Centers

The Maritime Child Development Center would be used as a research center for the practices of early child care and education, as well as for the history of early child care. It would attract and involve researchers, academics, and students of many disciplines.

The Ruth Powers Child Development Center would be preserved and used to continue its historic use for early childhood care and education. This center also would be a resource center for teachers and families associated with the adjacent Head Start school.

Park Headquarters

The park administrative headquarters could be placed in downtown Richmond.

Visitor Tours and Transportation Services

The Ford Assembly Plant building would be connected to the Richmond Intermodal Transportation Station by local transit service. Visitors could explore historic sites and structures through self-guiding tours and periodic organized group tours.

Richmond Shipyard No. 3

Most of Richmond Shipyard No. 3 and its historic structures would be used for contemporary port uses. The exteriors of these historic structures would be preserved to reflect their appearance during the 1940s.

Guided tours for visitors could be offered to part of the historic Richmond Shipyard No. 3.

A visitor day at the park

The National Historical Park provides visitors with opportunities to explore the critical role that the American Home Front played in securing victory in World War II. The World War II Educational Institute is the definitive source for America's World War II Home Front history and provides a variety of exhibits, extensive oral histories, and research collections that is supported by a partnership with major American educational and historical institutions.

The National Historical Park provides the visitor with three unique pathways for exploring World War II Home Front themes. The first is a National Perspective, where visitors can learn about the American World War II Home Front throughout the nation. There are exhibits, artifacts, images, and other collected items from the World War II-era that are on display and available for viewing. The World War II Educational Institute also provides many opportunities to participate in demonstrations, classes, and seminars that provide perspective on World War II Home Front themes. The National Park Service provides access for visitors to connect with other World War II sites throughout the United States via an Internet digital museum.

Exploring how the World War II Home Front influenced an American community is a second opportunity. Hosted by the Richmond Museum of History, the visitor can tour exhibits and archives that demonstrate how a community changes as it takes on a critical role in building and developing naval ships and other war-related industries to support the World War II effort. Visitors can explore how the look and size of a community drastically changed, the growing pains associated with a population explosion and the evolution of new health and child care services necessary to adapt to an emerging new labor force within the context of an immediate response required by the national emergency.

The third visitor opportunity is exploration of a Victory ship that was built in one of Kaiser’s Richmond Shipyards during World War II. Moored at Sheridan Observation Point Park, the SS *Red Oak Victory* provides visitors with an opportunity to explore the historical aspects of ship construction and naval vessel operations.

Visitors can also explore opportunities offered by the World War II Educational Institute from anywhere in the world through distance learning programs, interactive Internet sites, and television documentaries, or viewing the park’s traveling exhibit hosted by local libraries or educational institutions.



Artist’s concept of potential activities within the educational institute: ranger-led talk, seminar at the educational institute, distance learning at the digital museum, and exhibits.

Alternative D

Vision

Alternative D would offer a self- sustaining environment that would foster diverse cultural, educational, community, and commercial enterprises in Richmond’s historic Home Front sites and structures. The sites and programs of the National Historical Park would be intermixed with marine experiences, public markets, public spaces, industrial activities, retail opportunities, and cultural programs on the waterfront in the middle of a largely intact World War II historic industrial setting.

Unique to this alternative is that commercial and cultural events would help support the preservation and interpretation of the historic structures. In addition, the public could see the development of arts, crafts, and products from cottage and industrial enterprises operating in the historic sites and structures. A diversity of year-round commercial, nonprofit, and park activities within the historic sites and structures would attract local, regional and national visitors.

In this alternative, Richmond would be encouraged to promote heritage tourism, wherein many community and business activities would incorporate the World War II Home Front themes into services and attractions available to city residents and visitors.

Key Distinguishing Points

Visitor Experience

The historic Richmond waterfront and downtown would be developed into a vibrant destination by public and private partnerships (nongovernmental organizations and small and large businesses). A wide range of activities for park visitors, local residents, and tourists would be made available by the National Park Service, the community, and commercial interests. Private enterprises might offer a broad range of services and attractions to residents and tourists. These activities would connect downtown Richmond to its historic waterfront.

Education and Visitor Services

The National Park Service Education Center and primary visitor services would be based in the Ford Assembly Plant building, offering orientation and interpretive exhibits.

The Richmond Museum of History would be located in Richmond Shipyard No. 3. Visitor information stations in downtown Richmond and in the historic area of Richmond Shipyard No. 3 would orient visitors to Richmond’s heritage tourism activities and the National Historical Park.

Historic Preservation

The exterior facades of the historic structures would be preserved so that World War II stories could be interpreted. Parts of the interior spaces would be modified for compatible contemporary purposes.

SS Red Oak Victory

The SS *Red Oak Victory* would be moored in front of the electrical building at Richmond Shipyard No. 3 as shown in the illustration below.

Child Development Centers

The Maritime Child Development Center would be preserved, and its use for child care would continue. In addition, visitors and researchers would be welcome to the resource center there, where they could visit a fully restored historic classroom.

The Ruth Powers Child Development Center would be rehabilitated, and its use for child care would continue. It also would be a resource center for teachers and families associated with the system.

Park Headquarters

The park administrative headquarters would be located in Richmond Shipyard No. 3.

Visitor Tours and Transportation Services

The Ford Assembly Plant building would be connected to the Richmond Intermodal Transportation Station by local transit service.

Visitors could explore historic sites and structures through self-guided tours and periodic organized group tours. Visitors also could gain access to the historic Richmond Shipyard No. 3 via a road along its western boundary.

Access to Richmond Shipyard No. 3 would be available from the harbor by private boat, water taxis, and regional marine shuttles. Temporary boat tie-ups would be available in designated graving dock(s) for recreational boat access.

Richmond Shipyard No. 3

Contemporary port uses would continue among the diverse mix of activities at Richmond Shipyard No. 3. In addition, a mixture of cottage and industrial enterprises would be located in most of the historic part of the shipyard. Park programs, marine experiences, public markets, retail opportunities,

cultural programs, arts activities, craft artisans, and tourist services and accommodations would also be available. These activities would help to support the preservation of the historic structures in the National Historical Park.

A visitor day at the park

Visitors may begin their trip with a scenic ferry ride from San Francisco. As the ferry approaches Sheridan Observation Point Park the passengers can view the diverse commercial and community activities occurring in Shipyard No. 3, the Ford Assembly Plant building, and surrounding open space parks. Adjacent to the ferry portal is the National Park Service’s education center that provides exhibits and orientation to help visitors plan their park visit. The Ford Assembly Plant is teeming with retail shops and small manufacturing companies and local artisans that provide visitors with views of their production processes. Nearby are water taxis that connect the Ford Assembly Plant to historic Shipyard No. 3.

Upon entering Shipyard No. 3, visitors will find historic sites and structures that house public markets, commercial retail/manufacturing, performing/visual artist and community activities that are intermixed with park exhibits and ranger-led interpretive programs while retaining the historic ambiance.

Additional visitor attractions are available at the adjacent graving docks. They include a partially constructed model of a Victory Ship that demonstrates how the World War II naval ships were constructed. Moored nearby the model is the SS *Red Oak Victory* that was built in Kaiser’s Richmond Shipyard and is available for tours. A boat hotel and other marine related services makes the National Historical Park a major destination for recreational boaters throughout the San Francisco Bay area.

Heritage tourism businesses and community groups welcome visitors to explore first hand Richmond’s World War II Home Front, including historic sites and structures throughout Richmond and that illustrate the setting for dining, entertainment and shopping of the 1940’s.



Artist’s concept of boat building, a cottage industry, located in the machine shop in Shipyard No. 3.



Shipyard No. 3 concept from September 2003 charette. SS *Red Oak Victory* in front of electrical building.

Comparison of Alternatives				
	Alternative A: (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Visitor Information & Interpretation				
Education Center (facility focusing on World War II Home Front interpretive exhibits and programs.)	Richmond City Hall (Visitor Center)	Ford Assembly Plant building	Ford Assembly Plant building	Ford Assembly Plant building
Information Station (small visitor orientation and information station.)	None	Shipyards No. 3 & Downtown Richmond	None	Shipyards No. 3
Educational Institute (national center for World War II Home Front education, research and historic resource depository.)	None	None	Ford Assembly Plant building	None
Richmond Museum of History	Separate from the park	Separate from the park	Ford Assembly Plant building	Shipyards No. 3
SS Red Oak Victory	Sheridan Observation Point	Shipyards No. 3 Graving Dock	Sheridan Observation Point	Shipyards No. 3; moored in front of the electrical building
Whirley Crane	Ford Assembly Plant building	Shipyards No. 3	Ford Assembly Plant building	Shipyards No. 3
Partially Constructed Victory Ship	None	Shipyards No. 3 Graving Dock	None	Shipyards No. 3 Graving Dock
Park Use of Historic Sites				
Ford Assembly Plant building	None	Education Center	Educational Institute	Education Center
Shipyards No. 3: General Warehouse, Machine Shop, Sheet Metal Shop	Preserve exterior, Dedicated for port uses with some scheduled guided tours	Preserve exterior, Compatible port uses of the interiors Guided tours of selected portions of the interiors	Preserve exterior, Dedicated for port uses with some scheduled guided tours	Preserve exterior, Interior and exterior areas are used for commercial, industrial, non-profit, community, and park purposes
Shipyards No. 3 First Aid Station	Preserve exterior, Dedicated for port uses with some scheduled guided tours	Preserve exterior, Compatible port uses of the interiors Guided tours of selected portions of the interiors	Preserve exterior, Dedicated for port uses with some scheduled guided tours	Preserve exterior, Dedicated for port uses with some scheduled guided tours
Shipyards No. 3 Cafeteria	Preserve exterior, Dedicated for port uses with some scheduled guided tours	Preserve exterior, Interior used for information station	Preserve exterior, Dedicated for port uses with some scheduled guided tours	Preserve exterior, Dedicated for port uses with some scheduled guided tours
Shipyards No. 3 Graving Basins	Port use only	Partially constructed Victory Ship model SS Red Oak Victory Water Taxi 2 basins dedicated for Port Use	Port use only	Partially constructed Victory Ship model Demonstrations of functioning dry dock. Water Taxi Temporary tie-up for recreational boaters Boat hotel and other commercial visitor services
Ruth C. Powers Child Development Center, Maritime Child Development Center	Non-park related uses	Preserve exterior, Potential resource center for best practices; Guided tours of selected portions of the interiors	Preserve exterior, Research & educational uses	Preserve exterior, Showcase early childhood education operations
World War II Workers' Housing; Kaiser Permanente Field Hospital; Fire Station 67A	Work in Progress	Work in Progress	Work in Progress	Work in Progress
Tours of Historic Sites	Self-guided tours	Guided tours by licensed guides, Self-guided tours	Self-guided tours	Guided tours by licensed guides, Self-guided tours
Local transit service between Ford Assembly Plant building and Richmond Intermodal Transit Center	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Visitor shuttle to historic sites throughout Richmond	No	Yes	No	No
Visitor shuttle through Shipyards No. 3	No	Yes	No	No
Water taxi service between Ford Assembly Plant building and historic portion of Shipyards No. 3	No	Yes	No	Yes
Temporary tie-ups for recreational boaters	No	Yes	No	Yes
Parking near Ford Assembly Plant building	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Parking at entry to Shipyards No. 3	No	Yes	No	No
Parking at near the historic portion of Shipyards No. 3	No	No	No	Yes
Park Headquarters				
Location for park headquarters	Richmond City Hall	Downtown	Ford Assembly Plant building	Shipyards No. 3



Ford Assembly Plant circa early 1930s, Richmond Museum of History Collection.



Kaiser Field Hospital circa 1940s, Richmond Museum of History Collection.



National Park Service
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Participate in Public Meetings in Fall 2004

This fall the National Park Service will host public meetings to present and discuss the alternatives for Rosie the Riveter/ World War II Home Front National Historical Park. We welcome your participation. Please telephone (510) 232-5569 or check the Web site at www.nps.gov/rori after October 8, 2004 for meeting dates and locations.

We hope you'll participate actively in the development of the Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park. However, if you'd like to be removed from the park's mailing list, please contact the park.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

City of Richmond
Richmond, California

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park



Newsletter 3, October 2004

Twenty four Rosies from around the country who had responded to the Ford Motor Company call for Rosie stories attended the Congressional reception in Washington DC on May 19, 2004. To protect their privacy, the names of the Rosies are not published. In the back row are, left to right, a Rosie, Secretary of the Department of the Interior Gale Norton, Park Superintendent Judy Hart, Ford Motor Company Group Vice President Anne Stevens, and Senator Lisa Murkowski from Alaska. The Congressional Resolution resolves that "Congress (1) honors the extraordinary contributions of the women whose dedicated service on the home front during World War II was instrumental in achieving an Allied victory; (2) recognizes the lasting legacy of equal employment opportunity and support for child care and health care that developed during the Rosie the Riveter era; and (3) calls on the people of the United States to take the opportunity to study, reflect on, and celebrate the stories and accomplishments of women who served the Nation as 'Rosies' during World War II."



Congressman George Miller addresses the reception guests on Capitol Hill, May 19, 2004, celebrating the Joint Resolution enacted by Congress honoring the contributions of Rosie. Congressman Miller initiated the resolution. On his left is Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, Democratic Cochair of the Women's Political Caucus in the House of Representatives, and a sponsor with Republican cochair Shelly Moore Capito. To his right is Park Superintendent Judy Hart, then Jim Maddy, Executive Director of the National Park Foundation, the major partner with Ford Motor Company for the call for Rosie stories.



Left: Five Rosies were invited to breakfast in the White House with President George Bush and several World War II veterans on Memorial Day, May 31, 2004; Secretary of State Colin Powell congratulates a Rosie at the breakfast.

Right: Secretary of the Department of the Interior Gale Norton congratulates Rosies at the White House breakfast.

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Comment Form

Documenting Rosie the Riveters and other World War II Home Front Workers History

Park Map